

Statement of Senator Judd Gregg  
THANKING OUR TROOPS  
April 11, 2003

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to express my thanks, and the thanks of all the citizens of New Hampshire, to the amazing men and women of our United States Armed Forces, and to our coalition partners. We all are very impressed with the incredible success of our military effort in Iraq, especially the professionalism, discipline, and expertise of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

George Washington said, "Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable." And truly, our relatively small force has been very, very formidable. In about twenty days, they advanced some five hundred miles, while engaged in combat, and have taken Baghdad. They have fought with great skill and have acted professionally throughout, and they have accomplished this feat, with just slightly over a hundred deaths – that is an extraordinary act of military expertise.

Our reserve forces, the American citizen soldiers, have been major contributors in this effort. Patriots from New Hampshire have served our nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill, to Afghanistan – and now they continue to carry on that tradition, serving in support of our nation's war on terrorism and in support of the coalition's Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While New Hampshire is a small state, over 1,000 members of our Reserves and National Guard have been called to active duty. Those called include: 290 Air National Guardsmen from the 157<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing; the 260<sup>th</sup> Air Traffic Control Squadron; the 157<sup>th</sup> Security Group; and 39 Army National Guardsmen from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battery of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery; the 114<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment; and 526 Army Reservists from the 94<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company; the 368<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion; the 362<sup>nd</sup> Public Affairs Detachment; and 167 Marine Reservists from B Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battery, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines; and 13 Navy Reservists from the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division 125<sup>th</sup> Battery; the Amphibious Construction Battalion 2, Detachment 101; the CINC US Atlantic Fleet, Mobile Ashore Support Group; and the Submarine Support Facility, HQ Detachment 101.

They have left their homes and are serving as military police, engineers, air traffic controllers, pilots, public affairs specialists, and in other specialties, both within the United States, and abroad, in Southwest Asia, Cuba, Kosova, and the Middle East. I especially want to thank our citizen soldiers, their families, their employers – each in their own way, is making a sacrifice for our nation.

We can take tremendous pride in what our military has done, and especially in what our soldiers, marines and special forces have done on the ground, and in the fact that the results have turned out extremely positive. We have freed a people who have been oppressed by an extremely criminal regime that has killed literally tens of thousands of Iraqi people over the years. We are now seeing the people of Iraq suddenly freed, and their reaction to that freedom is so positive,

and genuine. They are realizing that finally Saddam Hussein is not going to rule them any longer.

So, many are justifiably excited that we have had success up to this point – but there is still a long way to go in this war. There are many pockets of resistance still to be addressed. But as we move forward, towards Tikrit and other parts of Iraq, I would expect that Saddam Hussein's evil regime will continue to collapse. Hopefully we are looking at better days for the Iraqi people.

Abraham Lincoln said, "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it." Now, 143 years later, another president, George Bush, has also clearly seen our nation's duty — and he has demonstrated the courage to pursue it to a just end.

We are a nation which goes into an event like this for good purposes. I believe the world will see that we have delivered a country into freedom – and provided their people an opportunity for a better life. We can take pride in that as a nation.